

REMARKS

1. Drawings

Applicants acknowledge the acceptance of the drawing correction filed on December 10, 2002. A Letter to Official Draftsperson was also filed on December 10, 2002 requesting that formal drawings reflecting the drawing correction be made of record, a copy of which is appended herewith as Appendix A. It is accordingly believed that all requirements with respect to the drawings have been met.

2. Claims

Claims 1 – 13 have been examined. Claims 1, 3, 7 – 10, and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,377,671 (“Biondi”); Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,927,273 (“Federowicz”); and Claims 1, 4 – 6, 11, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,463,327 (“Lurie”).

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation of Claim 6, which has been canceled. Since Claim 6 stands rejected only over Lurie, it is believed that amended Claim 1, and therefore also all the dependent claims, are allowable over Biondi and Federowicz.

A Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 by Keith G. Lurie and a Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 by Wolfgang Voelckel are submitted concurrently herewith. In each of those Declarations, an unequivocal statement is made by the Applicants that the subject matter of the pending claims, even to the extent disclosed in Lurie, is derived solely from Applicants. This statement is uncontradicted. Accordingly, the invention claimed is not “by another” and the rejection over Lurie is obviated. MPEP 716.10.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,



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